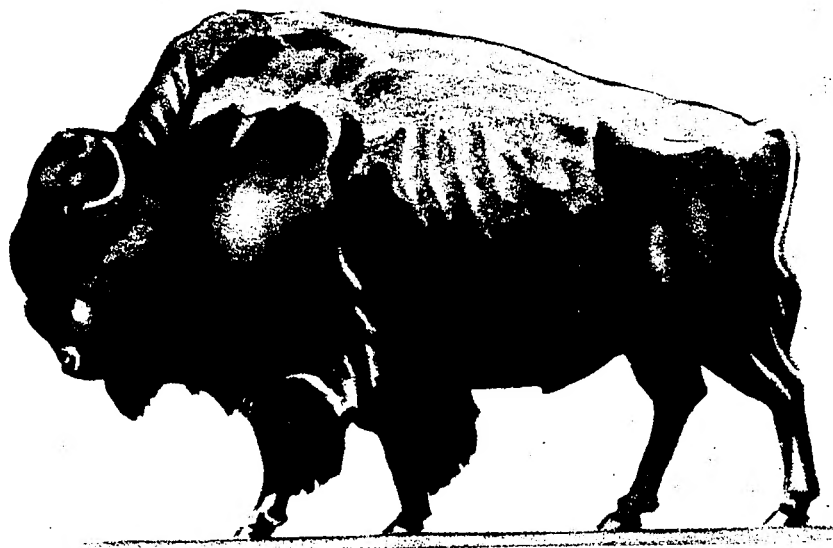


RIVER

Rampant



Published for the Benefit of

THE MANITOBA FLOOD RELIEF FUND

Price \$1.00



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1950
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RIVER

Rampant

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THE MANITOBA FLOOD RELIEF FUND

Price \$1.00

This pictorial record of Manitoba's great Red River Valley Flood of 1950 is dedicated to all those, in town and country alike, who have suffered loss and damage and misery through the flood; to those many firms, organizations and individuals who from the very outset fought valiantly to fight the flood, giving of their time and strength in an unselfish and sustained effort to preserve as much of life and property as was humanly possible; to those who helped succour and provide places of refuge for those driven from their homes; and to those who have contributed so generously to the Manitoba Flood Relief Fund, which will not only assist materially in rehabilitating the unfortunate flood victims but will, in no small measure, restore to them their faith and hope in the future.

"To pity distress is but human; to relieve it is God-like."



The most regrettable feature of the Red River Flood has been the damage done to the homes of 10,000 people. Most of the flooded areas are attractive districts in which large numbers of veterans and other young couples have built homes since the War. They put all they had into the house and now are in no position to replenish. It is the primary purpose of the Flood Relief Fund to help these sufferers to get started again in a home, and not merely a house. Every gift to the Fund will be an act of friendship done where most needed.

R. F. McWILLIAMS
Lieutenant-Governor



This pictorial review of the calamitous Red River flood of 1950 will serve to reveal to those not in direct contact with it how devastating this disaster has been. Of equal importance, however, is the fact that through its circulation this review will also serve to add to the Manitoba Flood Relief Fund, for all receipts from its sale will go to that fund.

The sincere thanks of those who have suffered in this disaster are sincerely given to the many thousands of voluntary workers and organizations who gave so unselfishly of their time and energy, and through whose untiring efforts the losses, though great, were kept far below what they would otherwise have been.

DOUGLAS CAMPBELL,
Premier of Manitoba

The publication of this excellent book, which displays so graphically the incidents of the flood conditions which are ravishing the metropolitan area of Greater Winnipeg and the smaller towns and settlements of the Red River Valley, gives me a welcome opportunity of expressing to the people of the western hemisphere the gratitude of all the flood sufferers, for the kindly interest and material support which has flowed into this area from so many places.

The damage to over 600 square miles of fertile farmlands, to the towns and villages which are their market centers, and to the urban metropolitan area of Greater Winnipeg is enormous. No mere words of praise can do justice to the dauntless spirit with which the people in the Red River Valley and in this metropolitan area have fought to protect property, homes and lives, against the attack of the raging waters.

The assistance of the western world has not been confined to the flood fighting operations. It has now expanded into a generous response to the Manitoba Flood Relief Fund, which has been established under the trusteeship of prominent Manitoba citizens, to assist the flood victims in the re-establishment of their houses into furnished homes.

I wish again to express my appreciation for the opportunity to give this message of thanks to those who have helped, and of sympathy to those who have suffered.

Yours sincerely,

GARNET COULTER,
Mayor.



The pages that follow tell in barest outline a story of tragedy and devastation without parallel in Canada's history. That the producers and publishers of this work should devote their entire net proceeds to the Manitoba Flood Relief Fund is yet another indication of the warm-hearted sympathy and generous support that have been proffered from all over the world to the flood victims of Winnipeg and the Red River Valley. The Manitoba Flood Relief Fund is most appreciative of this kind gesture and wishes to commend this volume to sympathizers everywhere.

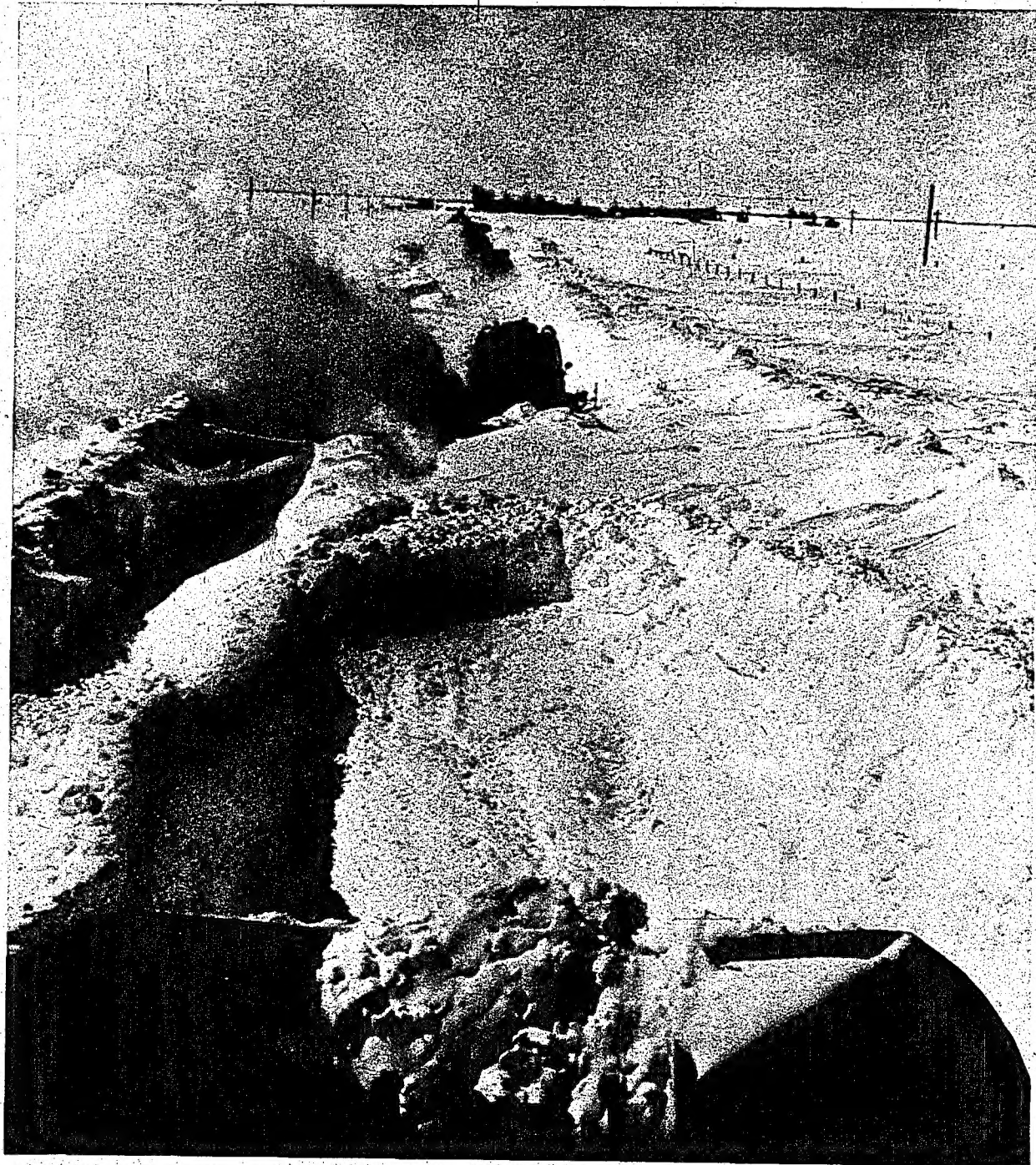
H. W. MANNING,
General Chairman,
Manitoba Flood Relief Fund.



It was indeed a privilege for the Armed Forces to serve Manitoba citizens and contribute to their victory over the Red River. Though the property damage has been heavy, we should be very thankful that the cost in lives has been so light. Among the most tireless combatants were those whose homes were inundated; and yet these folk continued to work on even after their property had been engulfed. The purpose of this book is to assist such people. It should serve as a constant reminder of the courage and tenacity of the people in the Red River Valley. I recommend this story and its lessons to all Canadians.

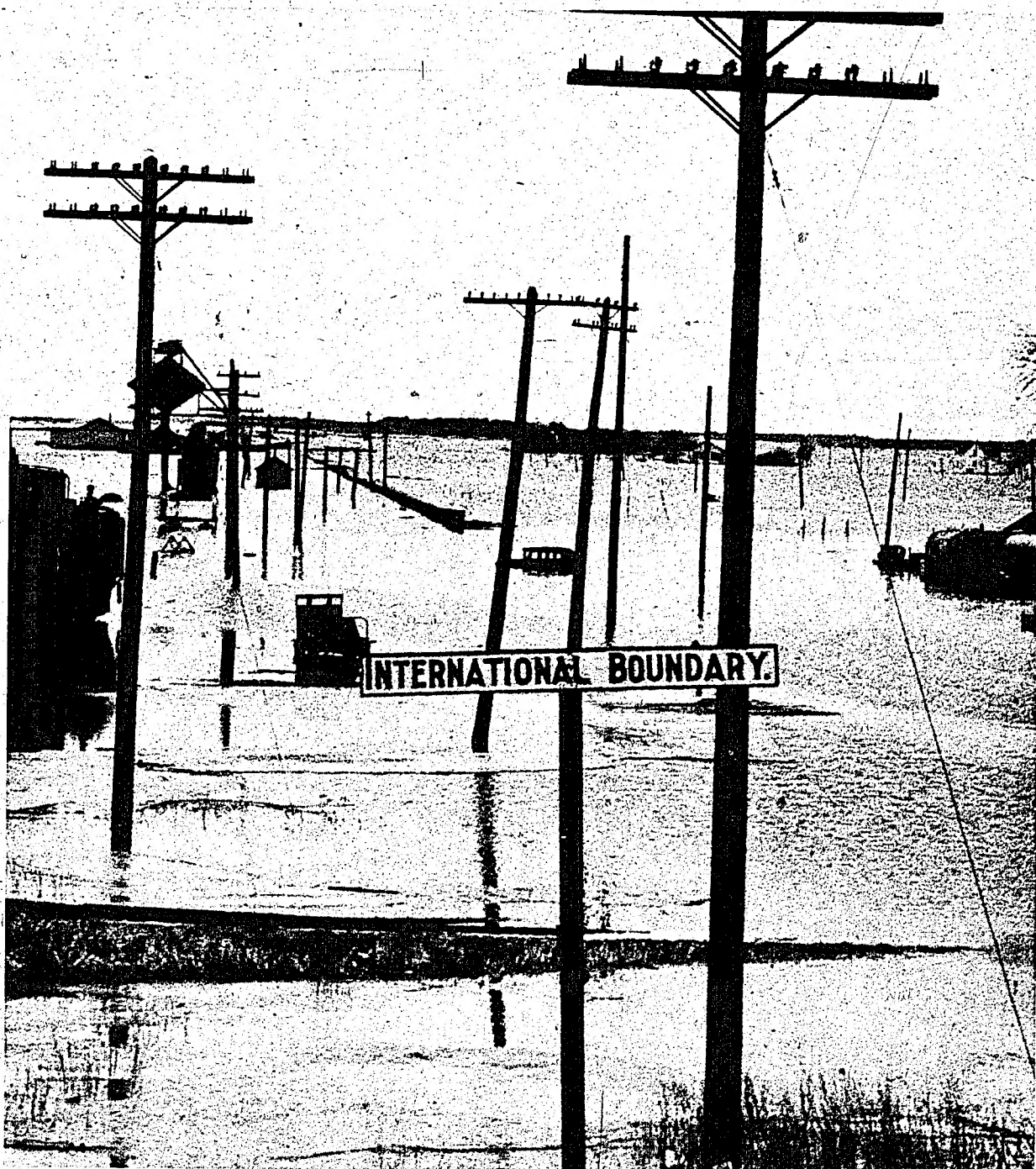
R. E. A. MORTON, Brigadier
Director of Flood Relief Control.





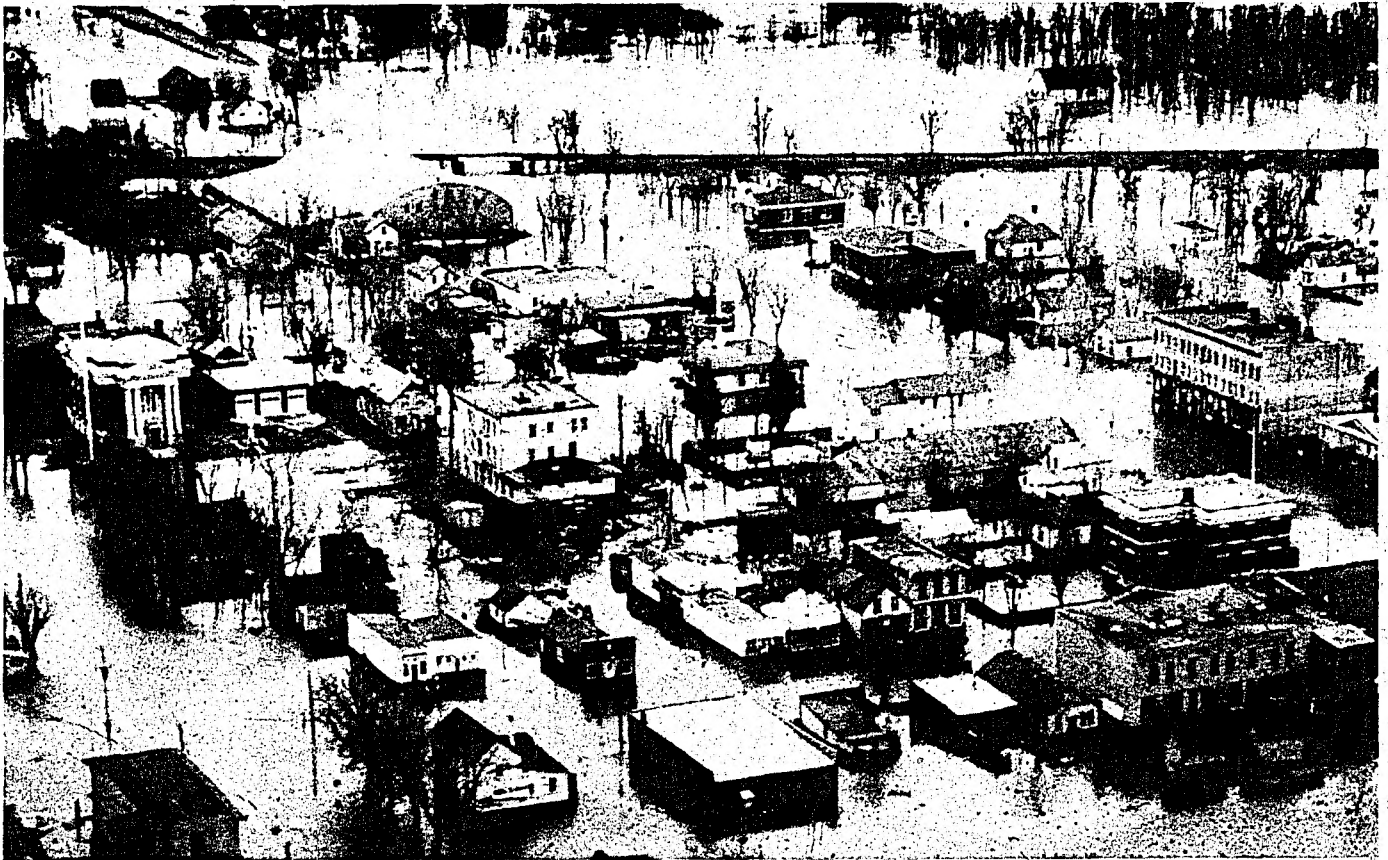
Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press

"The Cause of it all . . ."



"Where it all began . . ."

Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press



Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press

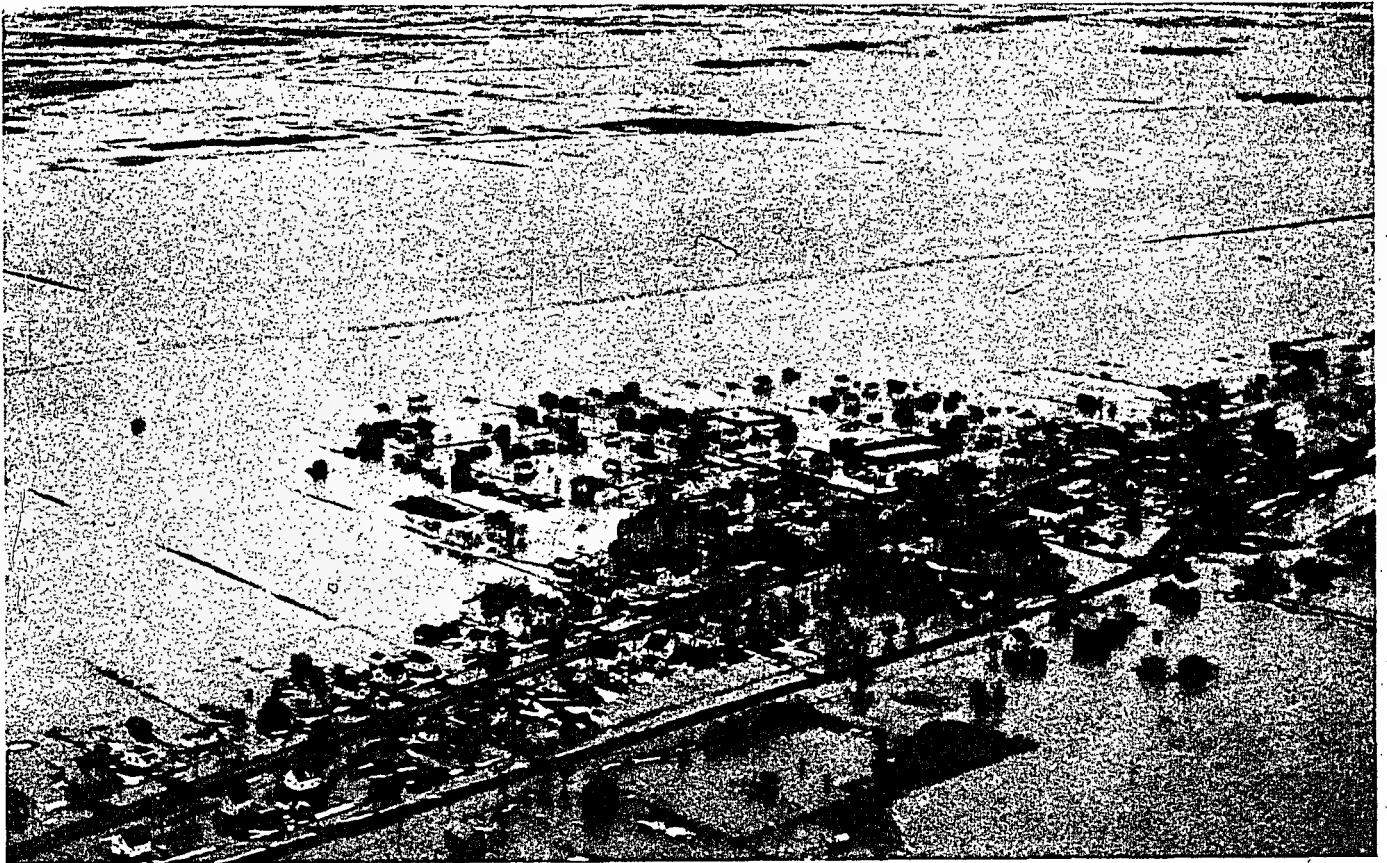
Air view of flooded Emerson shows C.P.R. tracks forming the invisible boundary line between Canada and the United States. Note—Canadian Customs office in centre background.



Main C.P.R. line at Emerson—work crews fought a losing battle with the rampaging Red River to keep it open.

Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press





Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press

Air view of completely inundated St. Jean Baptiste shows devastating flood waters stretching for miles in all directions.



All that could be seen of the St. Jean Baptiste Bridge on No. 75 Highway that links Emerson and Winnipeg.



Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press





Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press

Knee-deep flood waters surround Morris Post Office.

The town of Morris, Man., in the heart of the fertile Red River Valley, suffered more terribly than any other town by the great 1950 flood. For weeks water lay everywhere, like a great lake. In some places it was from five to ten feet deep. One would never have known where the mainstreet was except for the line of stranded cars, their tops barely visible above the muddy water.

Little waves lapped stealthily at second-story windows or at the eaves of what were once attractive homes. Some were completely submerged. Many houses and their contents were ruined beyond repair. All were badly damaged.

Most merchants in Morris lost all their stock. Through store windows one could see garments, food, drugs, furniture floating around. There hadn't been time to move the stuff out.

On the outskirts of town barns sagged crazily. And bits of wreckage, that once were prized possessions, twisted and whirled with the current, as it carried them off to goodness knows where.

Only 30 out of this once thriving, happy little town's 1,100 inhabitants remained throughout the flood. Morris was a veritable "ghost town."



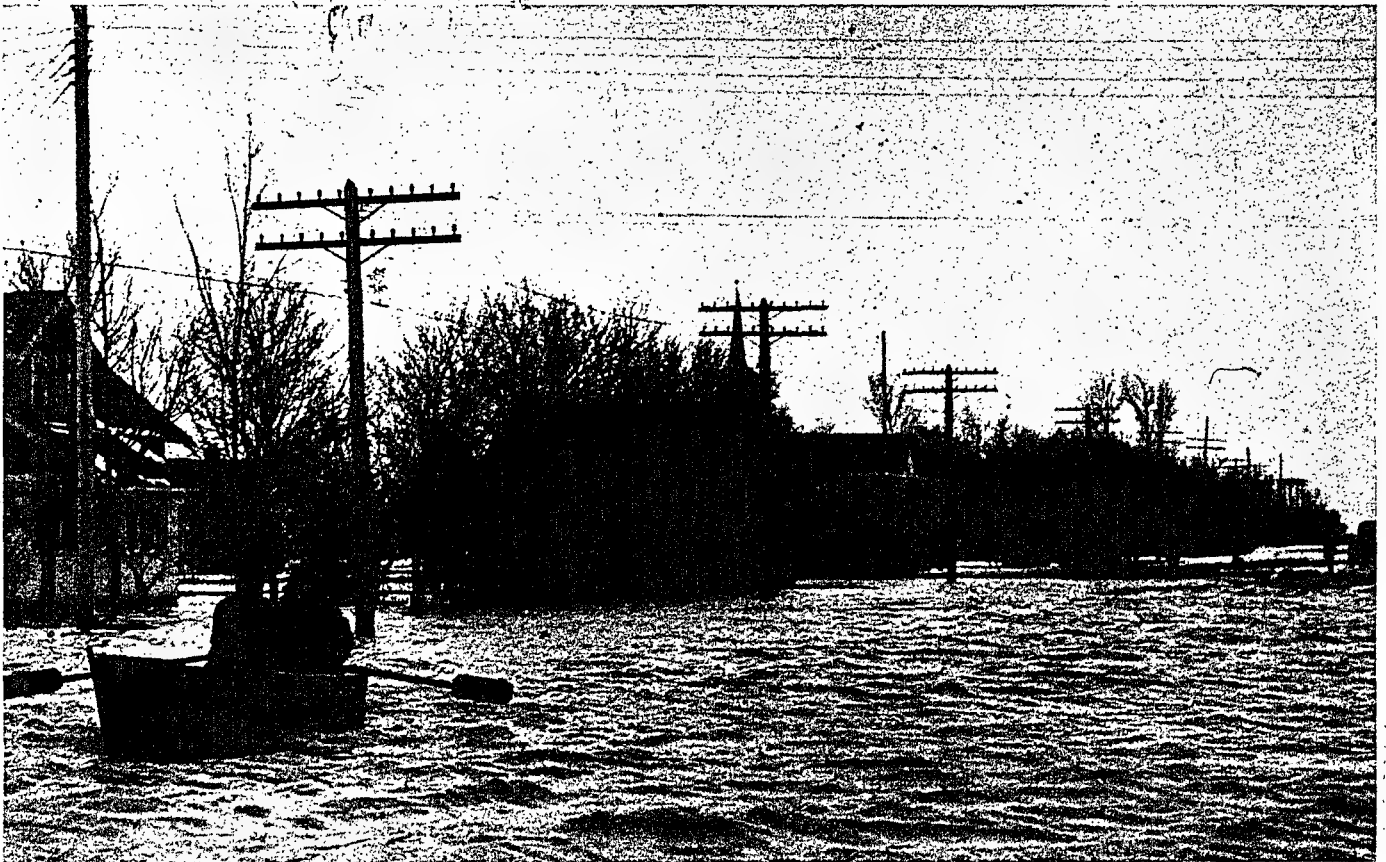
Courtesy Jack De Lorme

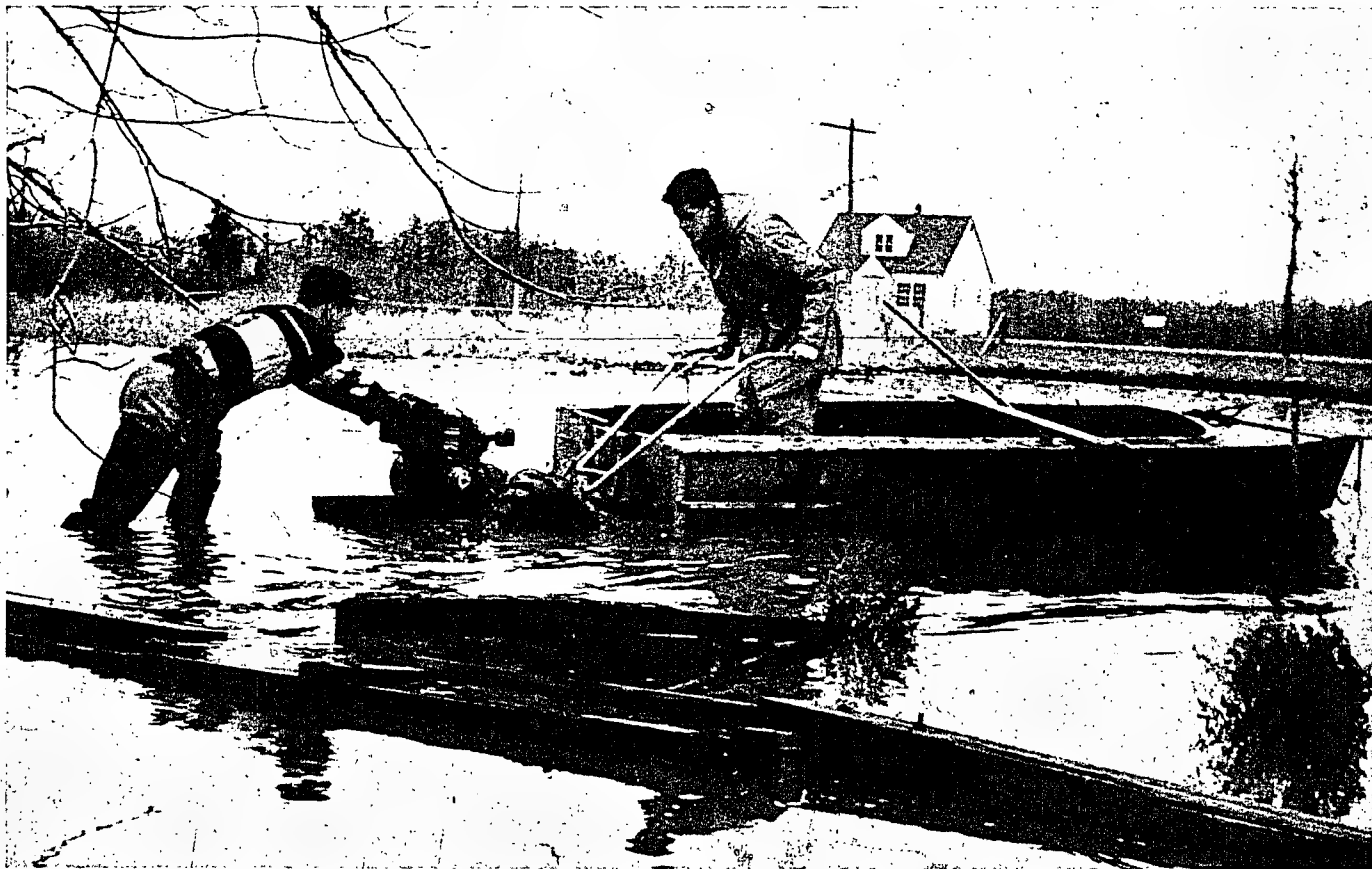
Surging flood waters of the Red and Morris Rivers cover Morris district to a depth of ten feet on the main street.



Travelling by boat on a residential Morris street. Morris was eventually completely evacuated to Winnipeg and other safe areas.

Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press





Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press

Rescuing a power cultivator from St. Germain's flood waters. If left to the corroding flood waters, equipment of this sort would require complete overhaul.



Evacuation of areas along St. Mary's road—fruitful farm lands, market gardens and veterans' small holdings shared in the havoc.



Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press





Courtesy Harold K. White

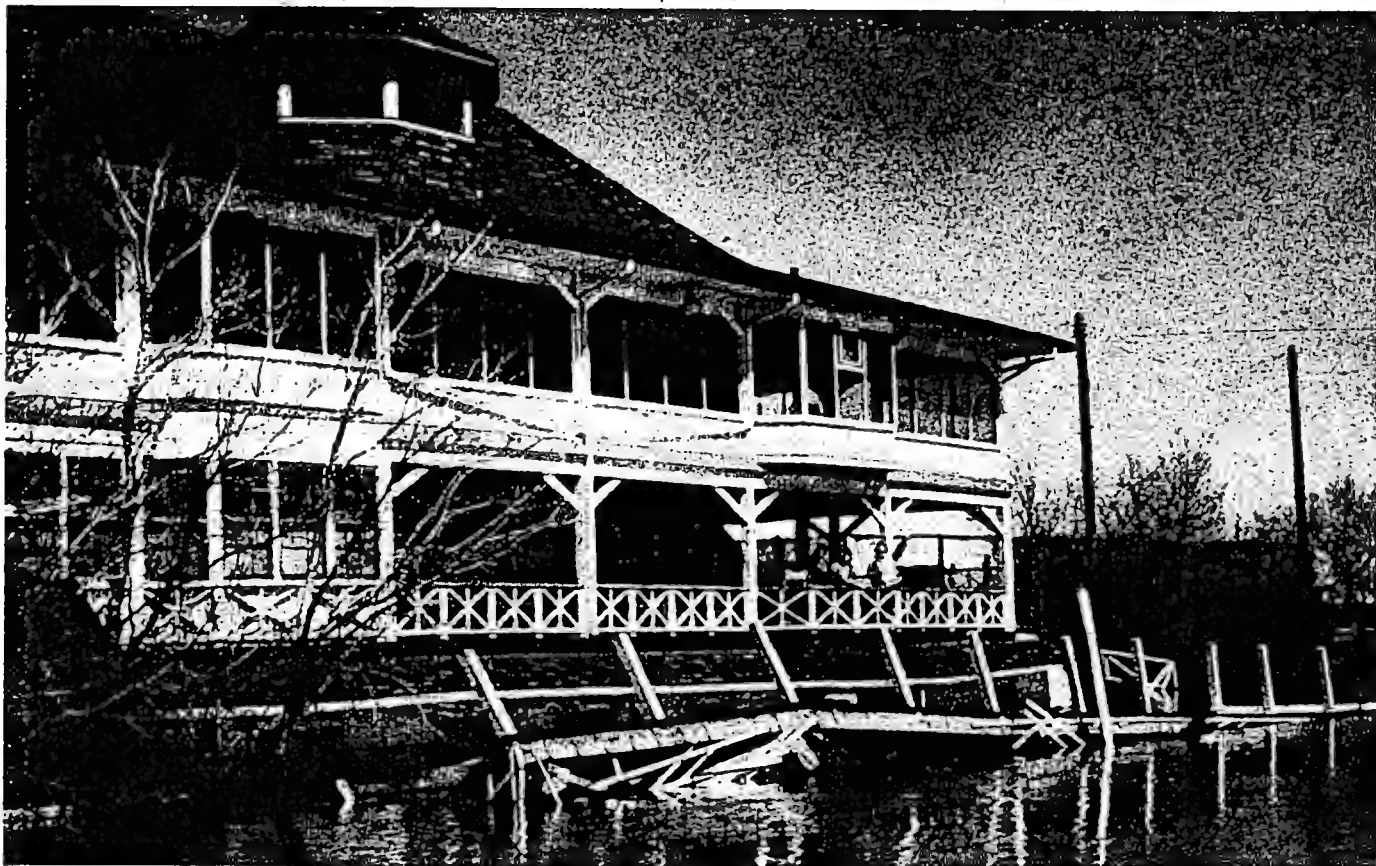
Corner of St. Mary's and St. Anne's Roads,
St. Vital. Twenty thousand evacuees left this
suburb by truck, car, and on foot when the
rampant Red and Seine Rivers rolled in.



Elm Park residents leave homes to the mercy
of rising Red Flood Waters which reached over
the first floor in hundreds of homes.

Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press





Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press

Winnipeg Canoe Club stands flooded and battered, added proof of the Red River's fury.

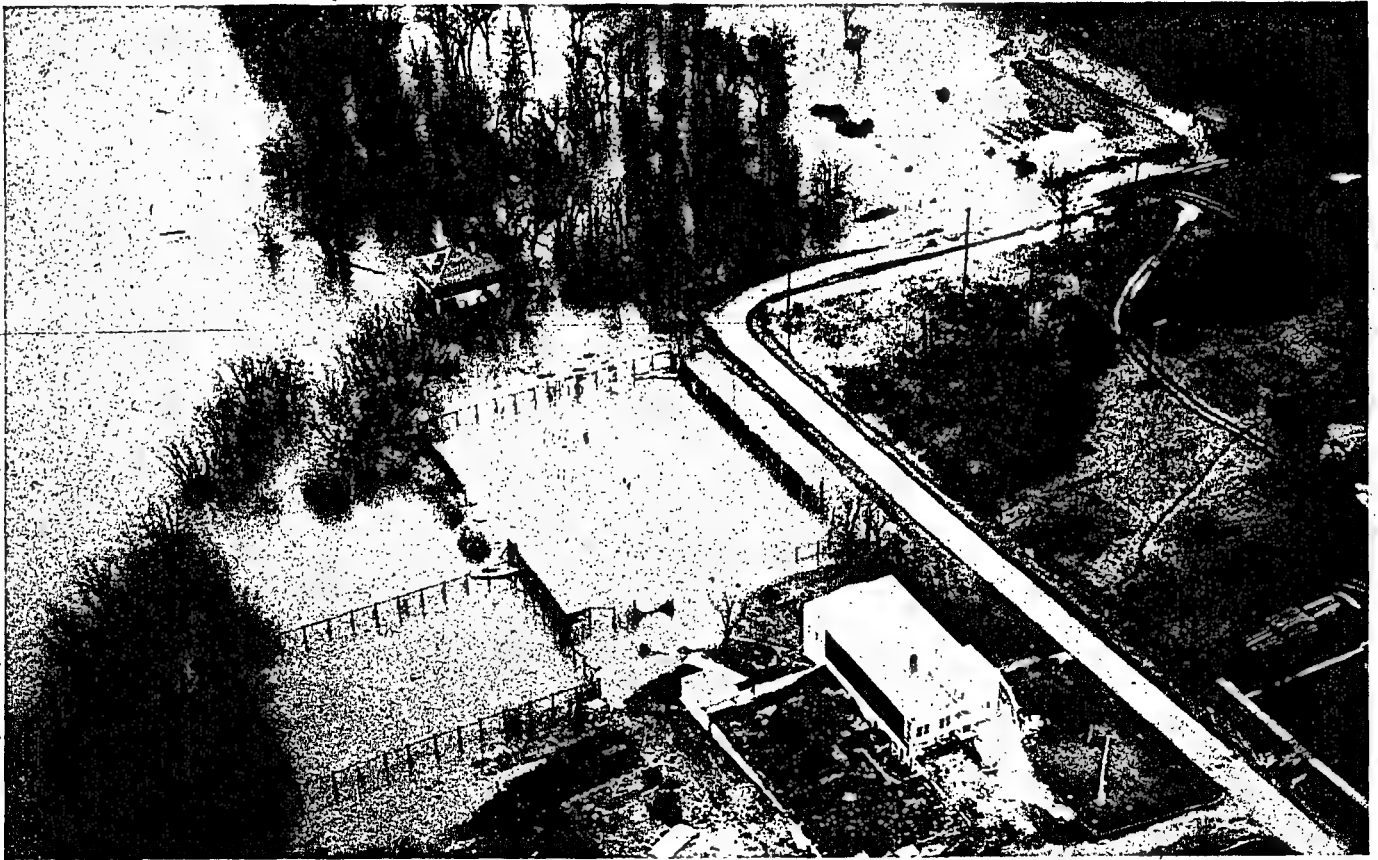


Swirling Flood Waters of the Red race through Elm Park area, St. Vital where thousands of homes suffered damage and loss.



Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press





Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press

Fort Garry's flooded district of Wildwood—the
Badminton Club in the foreground.



Ravenscourt School for Boys, Fort Garry—pupils
and teachers were evacuated to Saskatoon.

Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press





Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press

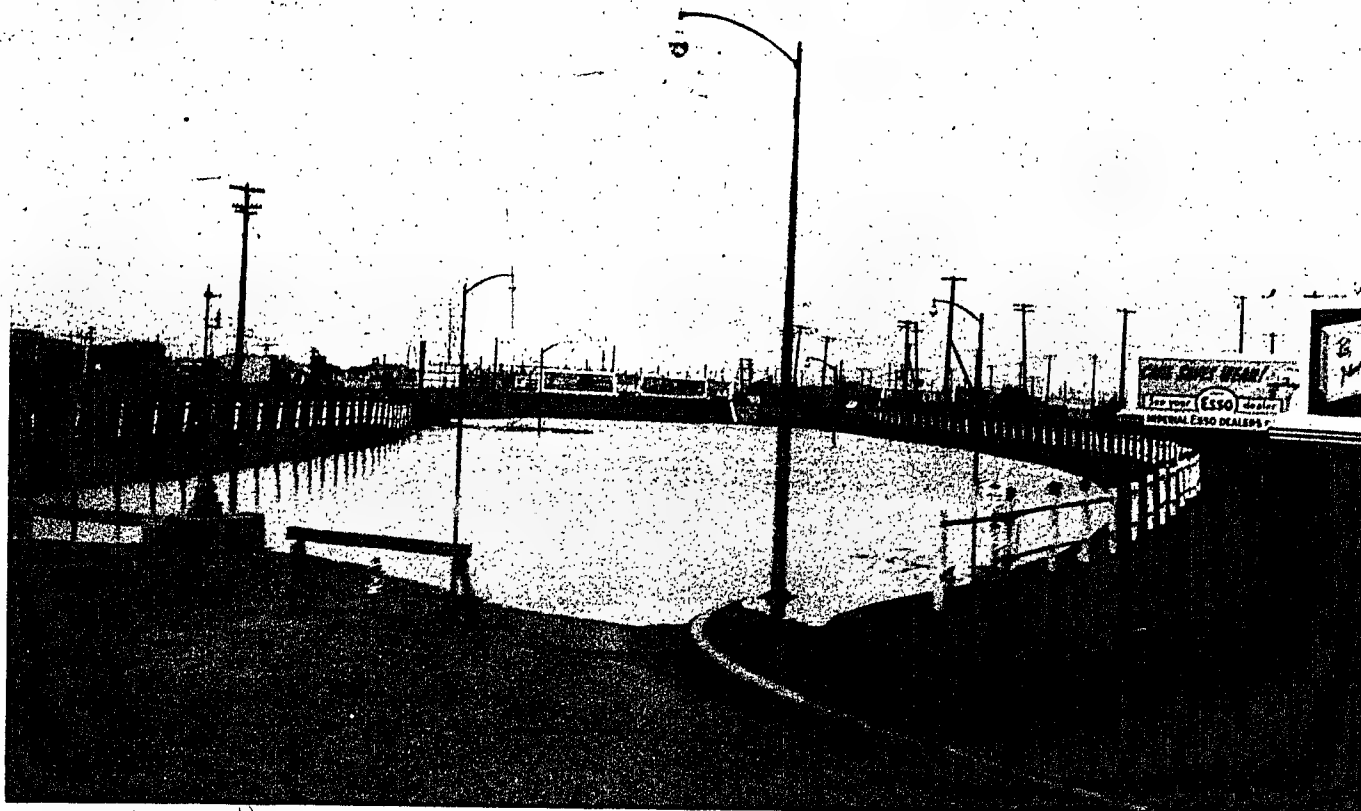
When two of Wildwood's three main dykes finally gave in to the Red Flood, hundreds of homes were abandoned and thousands of evacuees took shelter in safe areas.



Another air view of Wildwood shows, in the foreground, the shopping centre which became the meeting place for relief workers.

Courtesy Harold K. White





Courtesy Harold K. White

Flooded Subway on Pembina Highway between Fort Garry and Winnipeg. This hazard was by-passed by reverting to the old road across the C.N.R. tracks.

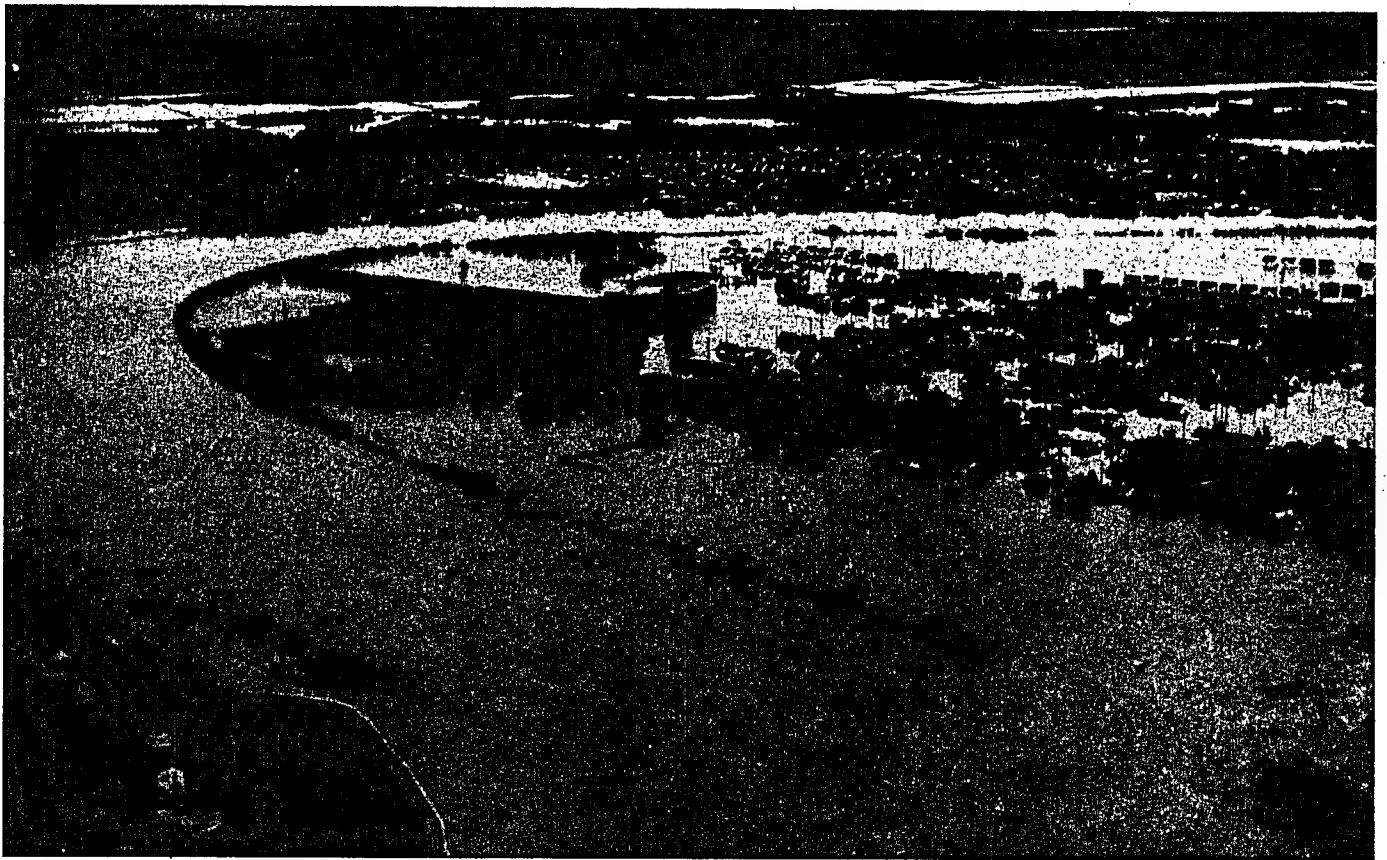


Dyking operations along Pembina Highway. Men, women and children alike, fortified dykes against the terror of the rising waters.



Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press





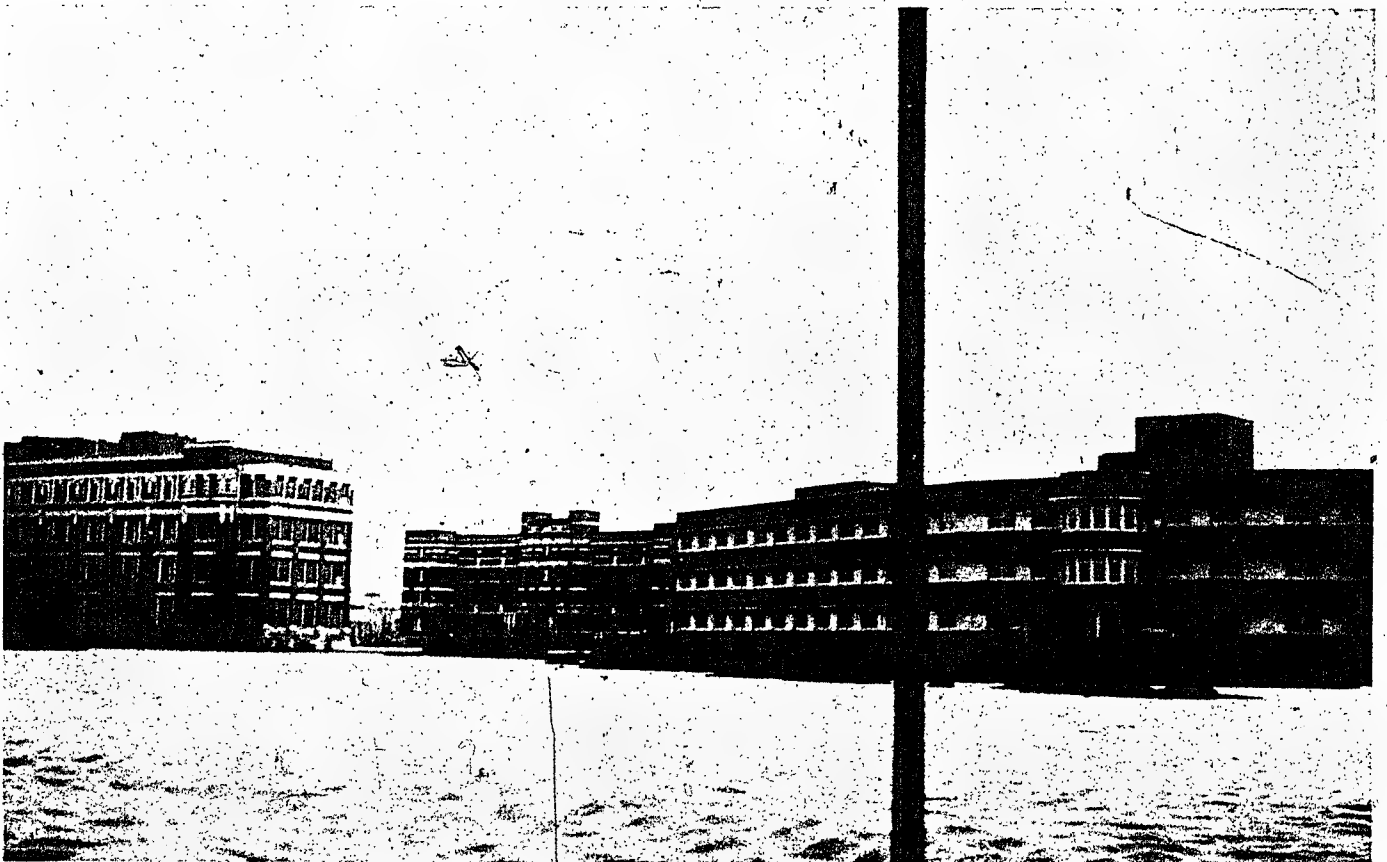
Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press

Flooded Riverview district from the air—another residential area suffering great flood damage and loss, along with the Municipal Hospitals.



Close-up of Municipal Hospitals—King George, King Edward and the newly constructed Princess Elizabeth. All patients and staff were evacuated.

Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press





Courtesy Harold K. White

Boiler and Maintenance Buildings of the
Municipal Hospitals stand idle.



Forced to evacuate when the Red's waters surged
in over the Riverview dykes — adding to the
already mounting flood toll.



Courtesy Harold K. White





Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press

The giant Lyndale dyke in St. Boniface-Norwood district, holding back in places as much as 20 feet of water. Thousands evacuated almost overnight when flooding threatened.



A Lyndale Dyke Road—built against the sand-bag barrier for added strength and used to transport workers and flood-fighting equipment.



Courtesy Harold K. White





Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press

A dragline aids in the building of the Lyndale Dyke—workers toiled long hours to strengthen and keep the dyke above water level.



Weary but determined dyke builders worked unceasingly to beat the flooding rivers—sometimes in rain and snow plus lashing winds in abnormally low temperatures.



Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press



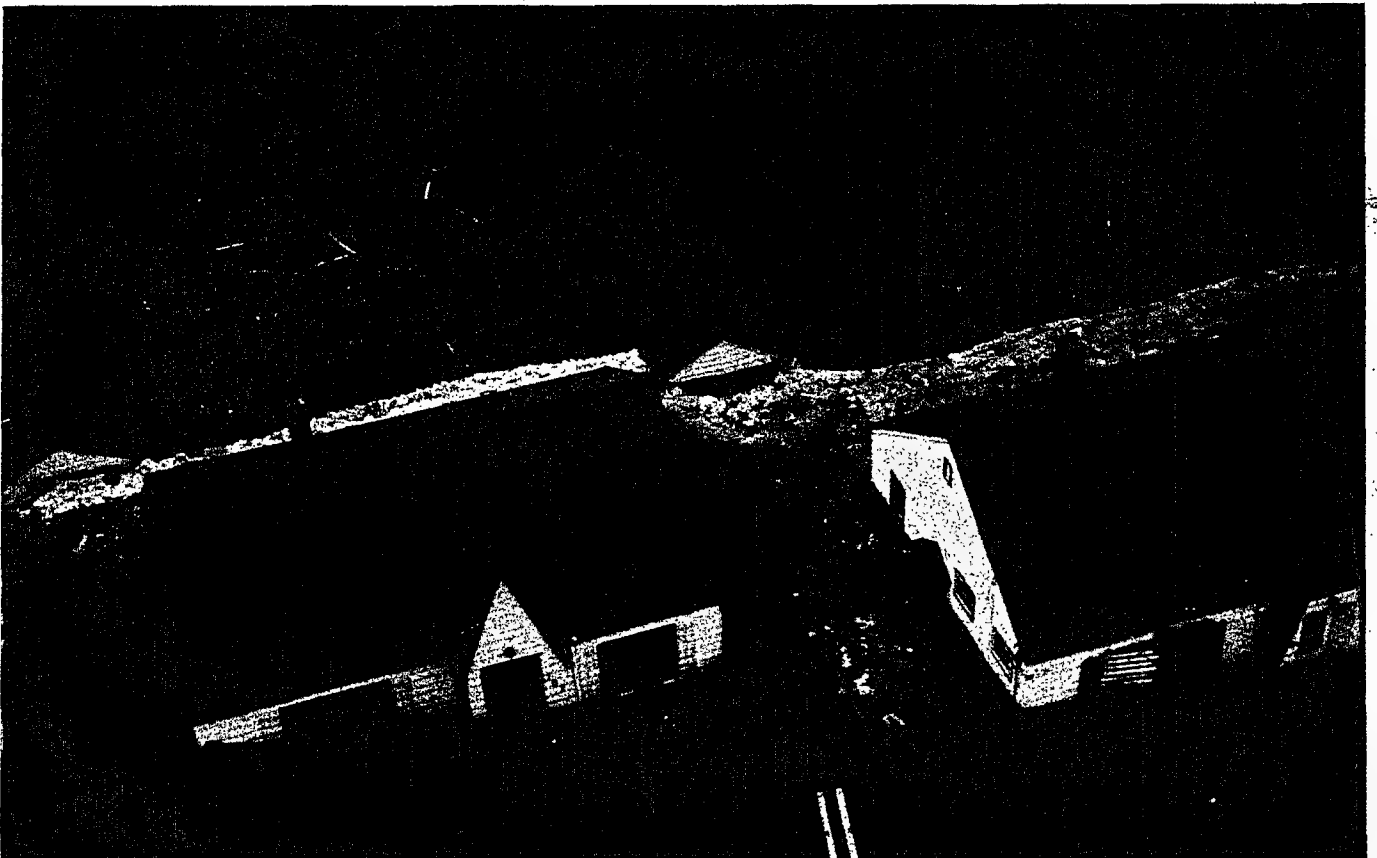


Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press

A bulldozer packs dirt to bolster a sand-bag dyke. Small storage buildings and garages, and sometimes even houses were sacrificed to allow bulldozers a free hand.

Lyndale Dyke, Norwood—job finished—holding fast. Constant vigil was kept along its seven miles for weak spots which showed up in the form of boggy mire behind the dykes.

Courtesy. Winnipeg Free Press





Courtesy Harold K. White

Flooding of Water Street approaching Provencher Bridge, temporarily cut traffic link with St. Boniface.

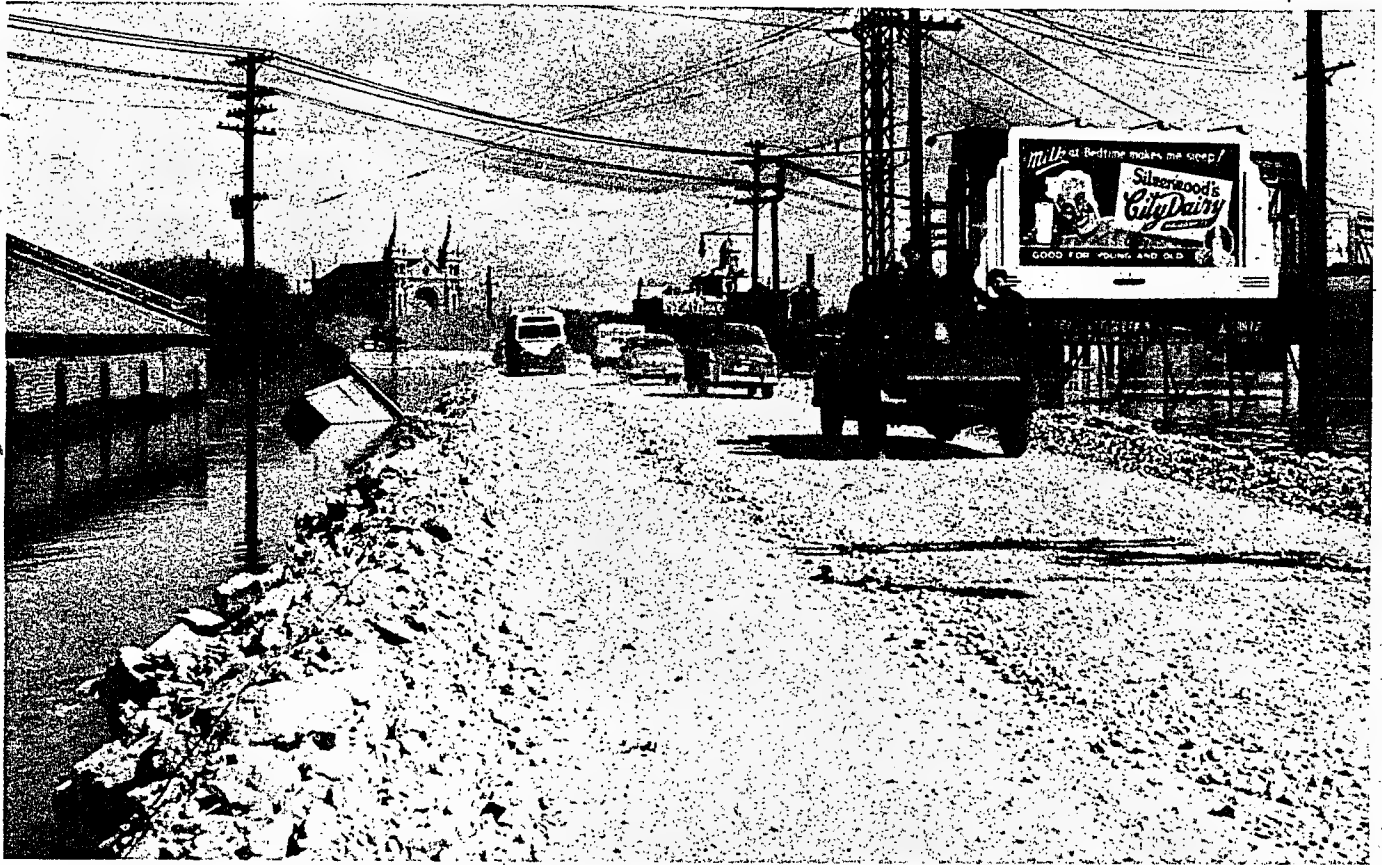


Truck after truck travelled from Stonewall to Winnipeg, carrying the stone that built this ramp to restore transport facilities with St. Boniface. This ramp stretched over 900 feet and to a height of 7 feet in places.



Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press





Courtesy Harold K. White

In three days the job was complete. This vital route restored, the people await recession of flood waters to return to their homes.

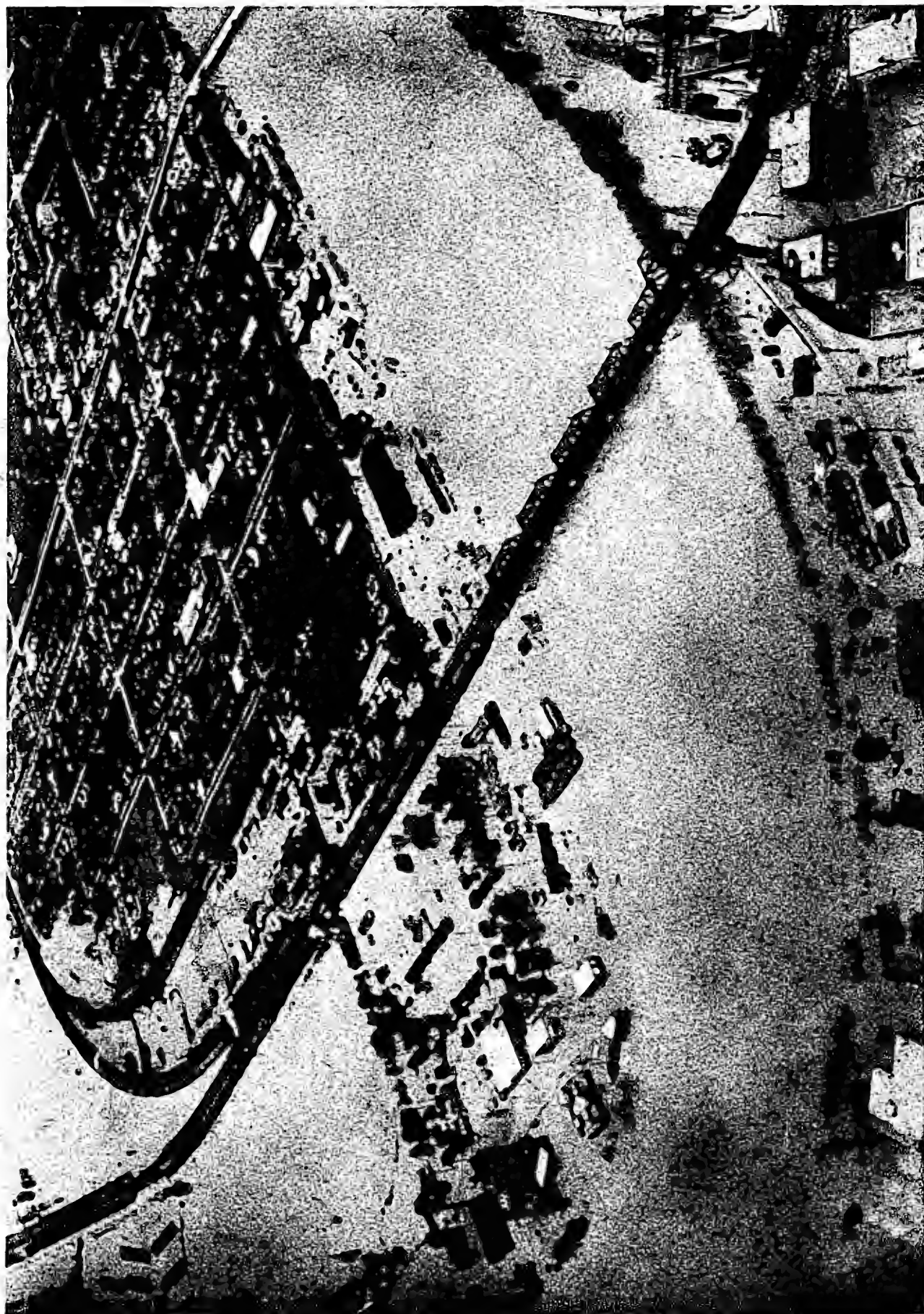


Another St. Boniface Dyke along Tache Street. Three workers patrol the evening's work. In the background can be seen the two familiar spires of St. Boniface Basilica.



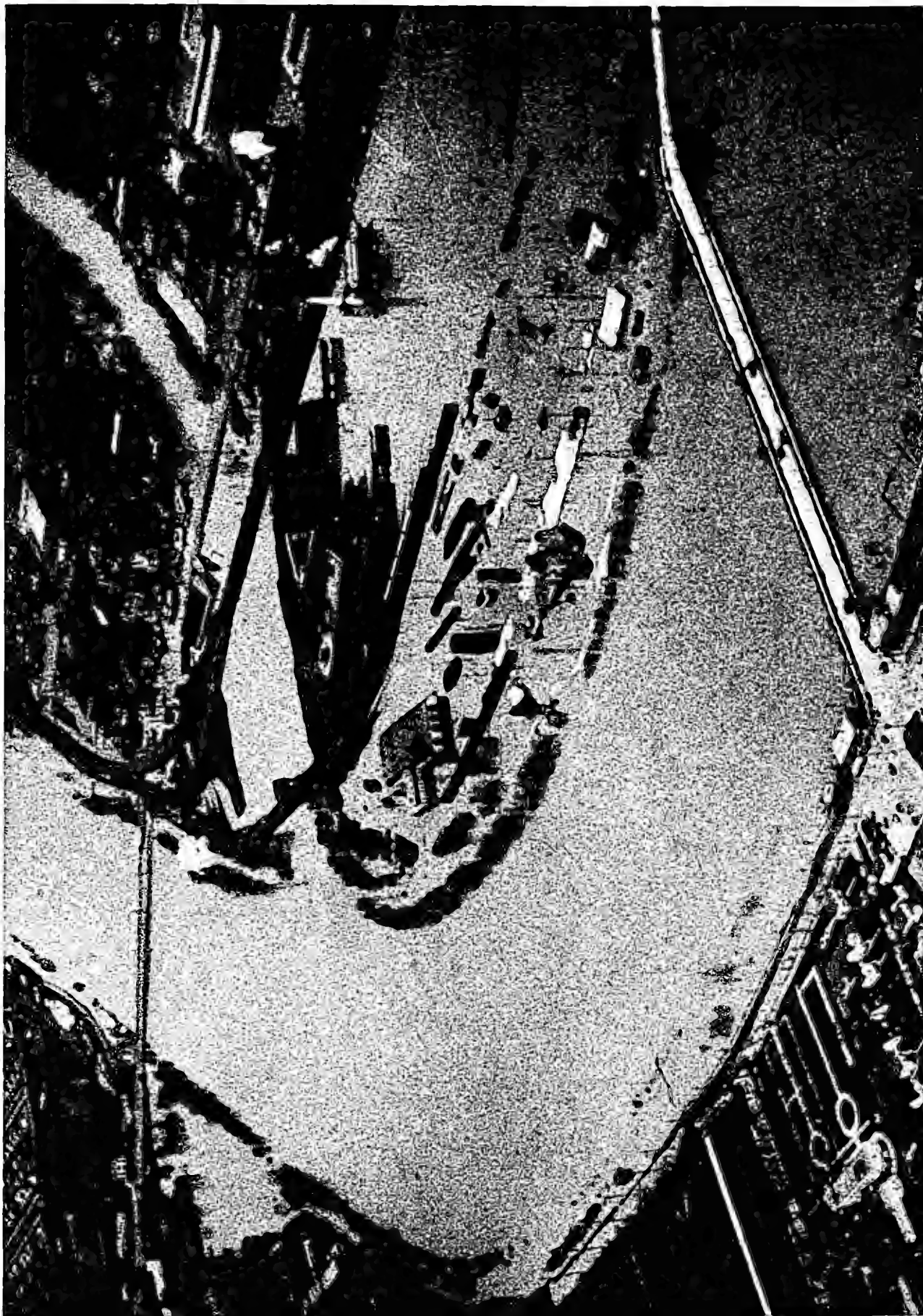
Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press





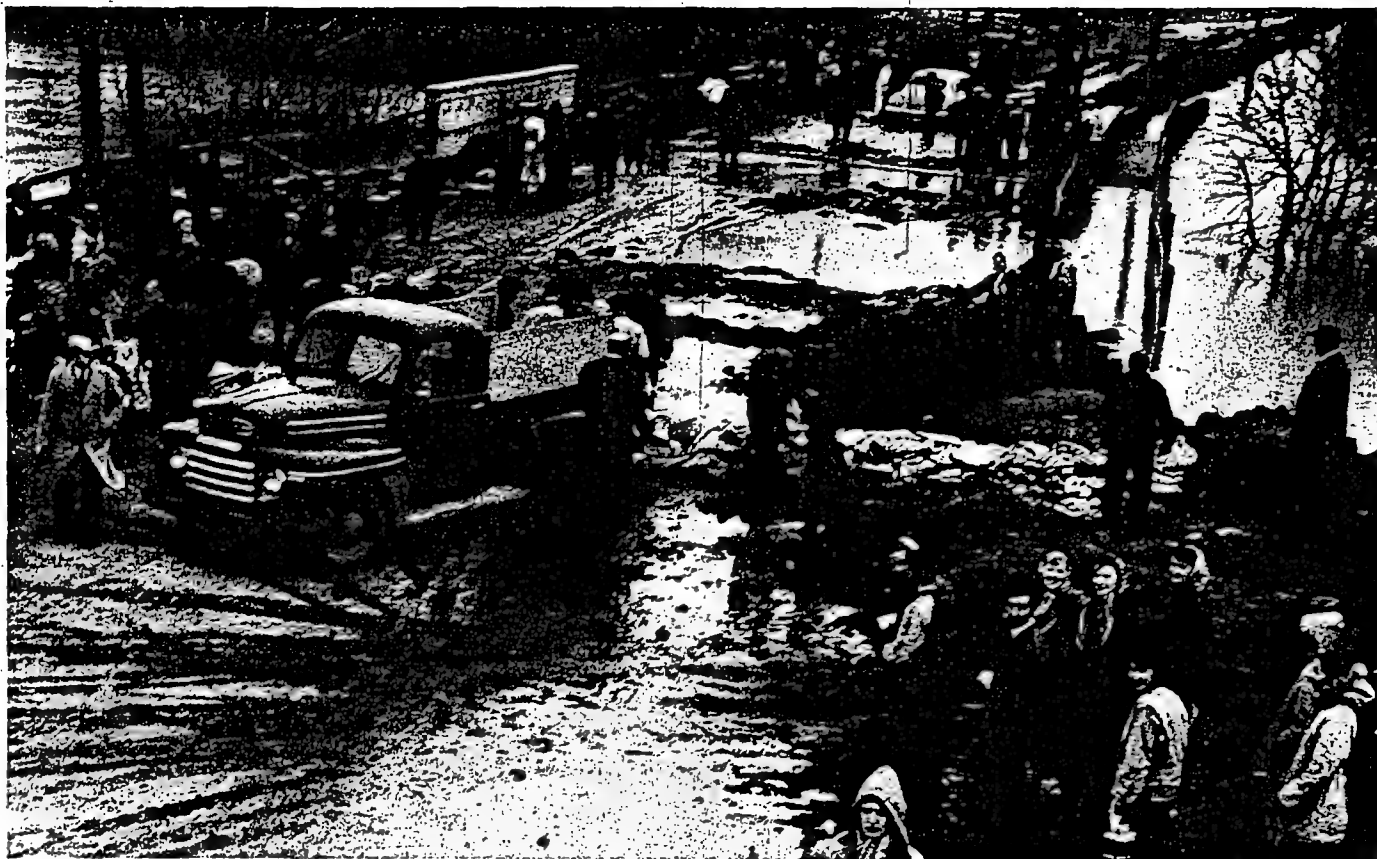
Courtesy Jack De Lorme

Looking East across the Red River into swamped industrial St. Boniface. Residential areas were well dyked but still threatened, as were all areas, by backed-up sewers. In the upper right is the East end of Provencher Bridge—in the upper left can be seen the faint outline of the Whittier Park Race Track and stables.



Courtesy, Jack De Lorme

At the Union of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers, bridges resemble roads balanced precariously between Winnipeg and suburbs. In the foreground, Provencher Bridge, upper left—Norwood Bridge, and upper right—Main Street Bridge and rail and general traffic bridge over Assiniboine River.



Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press

Workers fight to save Marion Street Bridge spanning the backed-up Seine River in St. Boniface.



Marion Street Bridge was finally washed out, but a temporary wooden ramp was built for vital traffic and evacuees from St. Boniface and St. Vital.



Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press





Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press

Weary dyke worker sleeps on pile of sand bags prepared the day before for possible emergencies in the Main St. and Mayfair Ave., area.



NORWOOD BRIDGE

Though this was by no means the worst-hit spot in Winnipeg or the suburbs, its importance as a vital link between the city and large residential areas cannot be overestimated.

As the river waters rose and dykes were built higher, concern for this bridge grew. Constant vigil was kept to ensure the safety of those wires which were strung under the bridge. Ladders were placed at points over the side so that workmen might get closer to debris which gradually became so heavy that it was thought to be a threat to the safety of the structure. In all, over 55 truck loads of debris were removed.

Though dykes were solid, seepage built a massive lake at the north approach and in order to get much-needed supplies, vehicles, and workers across, it was finally necessary to chain vehicles together and pull them through by tractor. It was just as the river reached its enormous peak of 30.3 feet above datum that the bridge was finally closed to all traffic. Traffic therefore had to be rerouted via the Provencher Street Bridge where a gigantic ramp had been built.



Until Norwood Bridge was closed to all traffic, emergency supplies and workers were ferried, chain-like, through the heavy waters by tractor.





Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press

Mass of debris piled against Norwood Bridge—
an estimated 55 truck loads were removed to
relieve the pressure.



Home Owner views flooded Scotia Street area,
North End.

Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press





Courtesy, Winnipeg Free Press

Flooded Scotia Street Homes behind dykes. Over four hundred homes were flooded—many over the first floor.



House becomes part of dyke—Glenwood Crescent, Elmwood.

Courtesy Harold K. White





Courtesy Harold K. White

Workers relax with coffee and buns while they wait for another load of sand bags to resume work on the Glenwood Cres. dykes just east of Redwood Bridge.

Scottish Right Masonic Temple — Wellington Crescent.

Courtesy Harold K. White





Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press

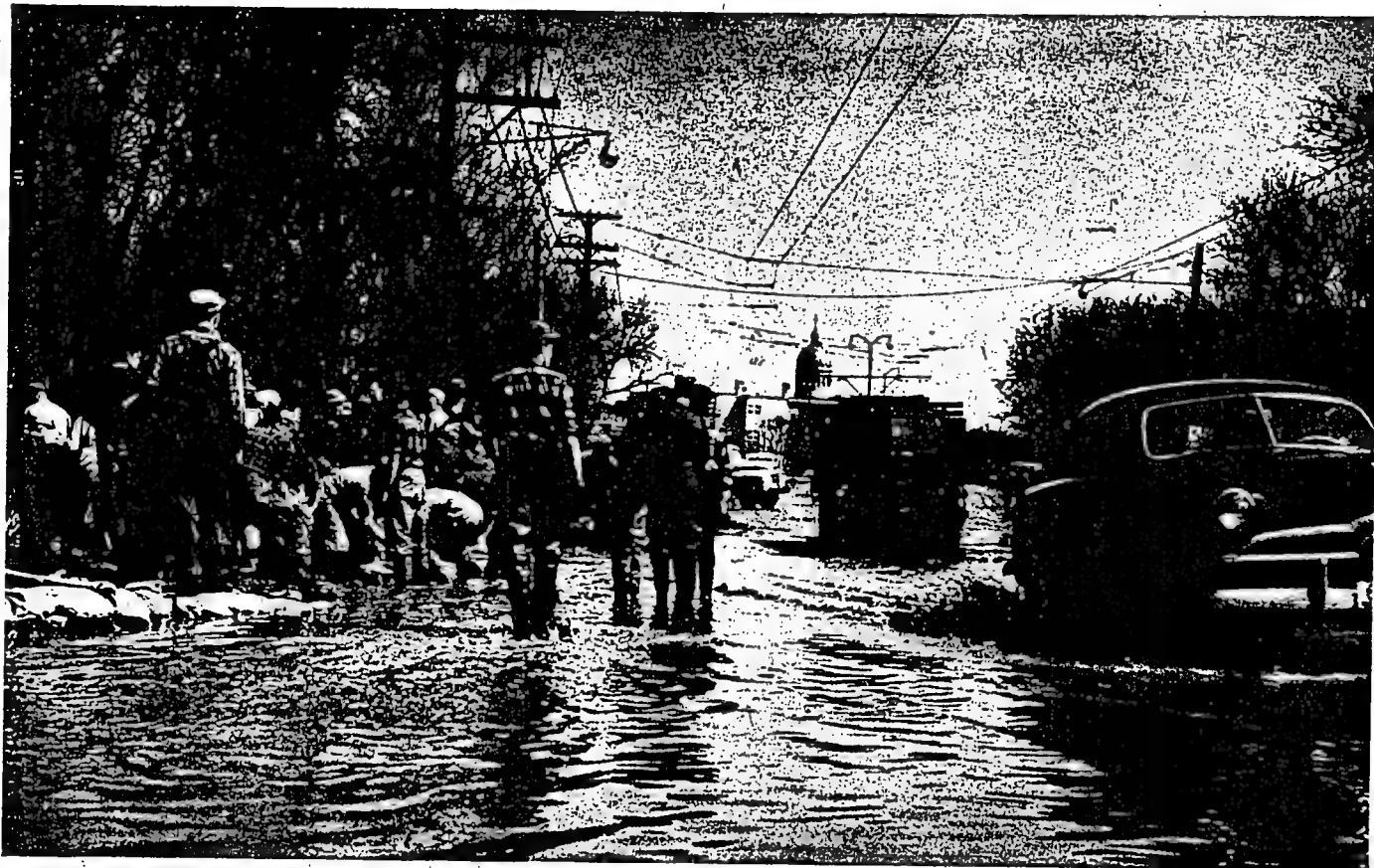
Newly constructed Shaarey Zedek Synagogue,
Wellington Crescent—taken from the river.



Shaarey Zedek Synagogue—front view from
flooded street.

Courtesy Harold K. White





Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press

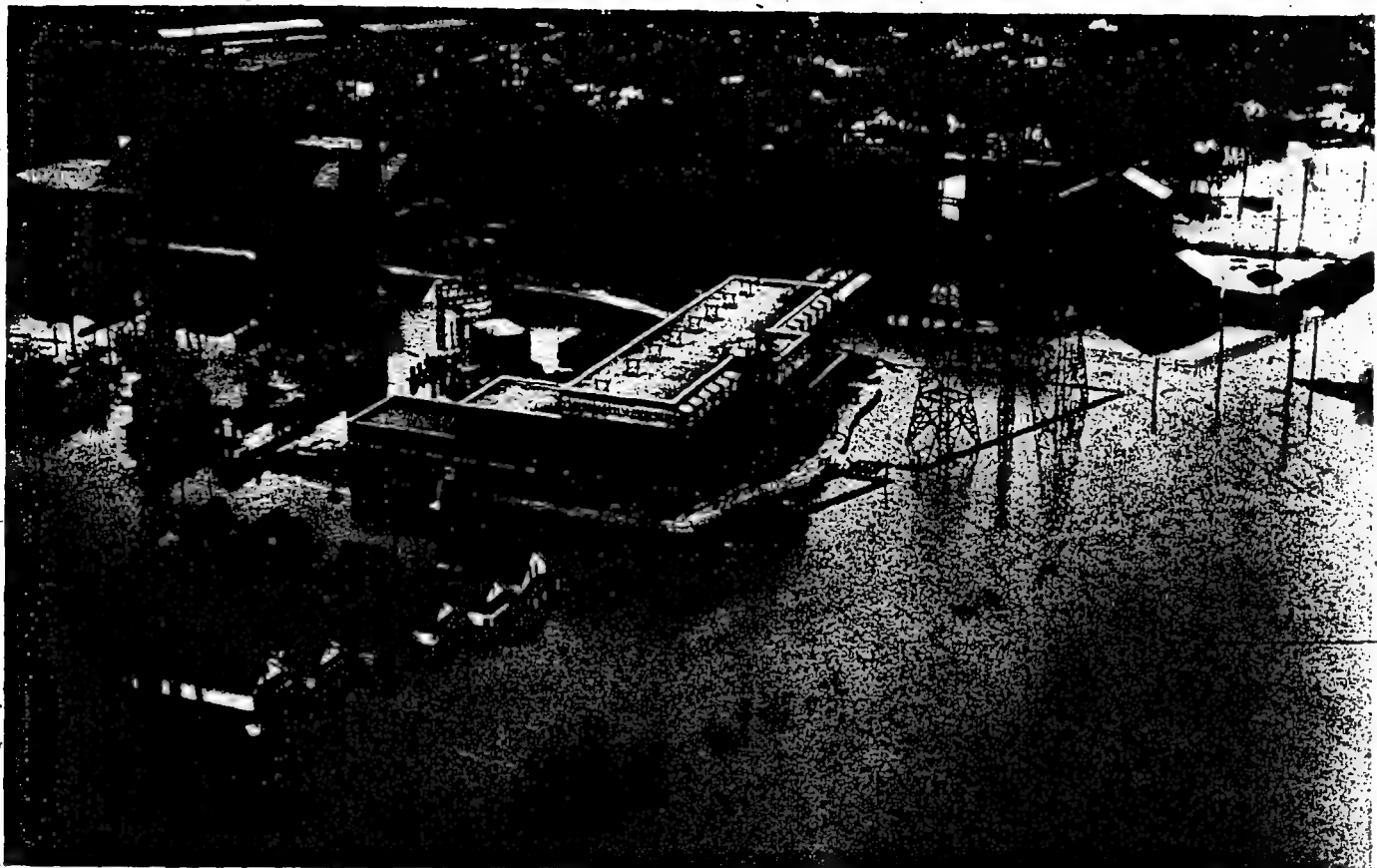
Dyke workers near Maryland Bridge—corner of Academy Road and Wellington Crescent. Backed-up Assiniboine threatens to cut link with River Heights district.



Looking down flooded Wellington Crescent.

Courtesy Harold K. White





Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press.

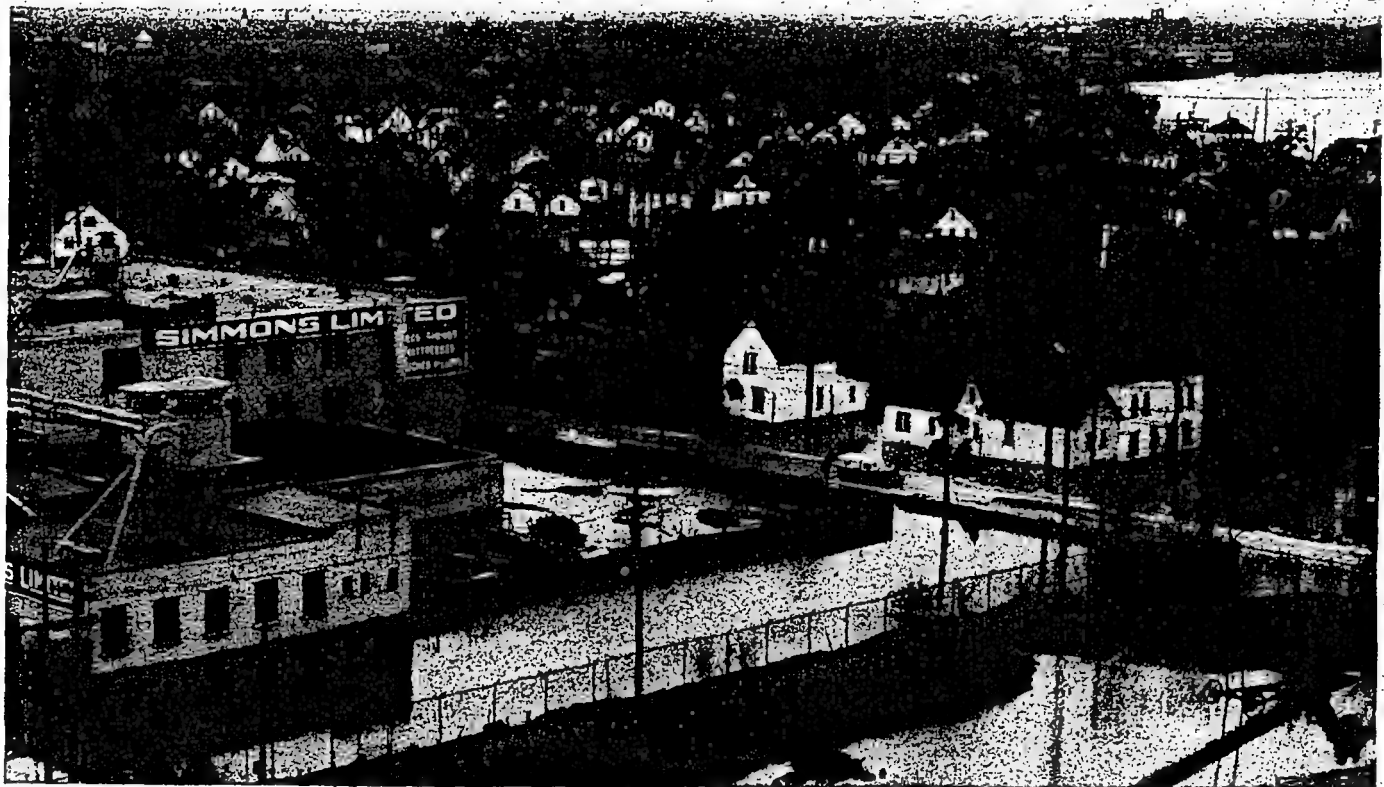
Air view of dyke-surrounded Rover Street Power House — City Hydro. Desperate efforts were exerted here to keep the city's power in operation.



Point Douglas industrial section. Industrial machinery, some of which will require complete overhaul before re-use, suffered heavy damage.



Courtesy Harold K. White





Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press

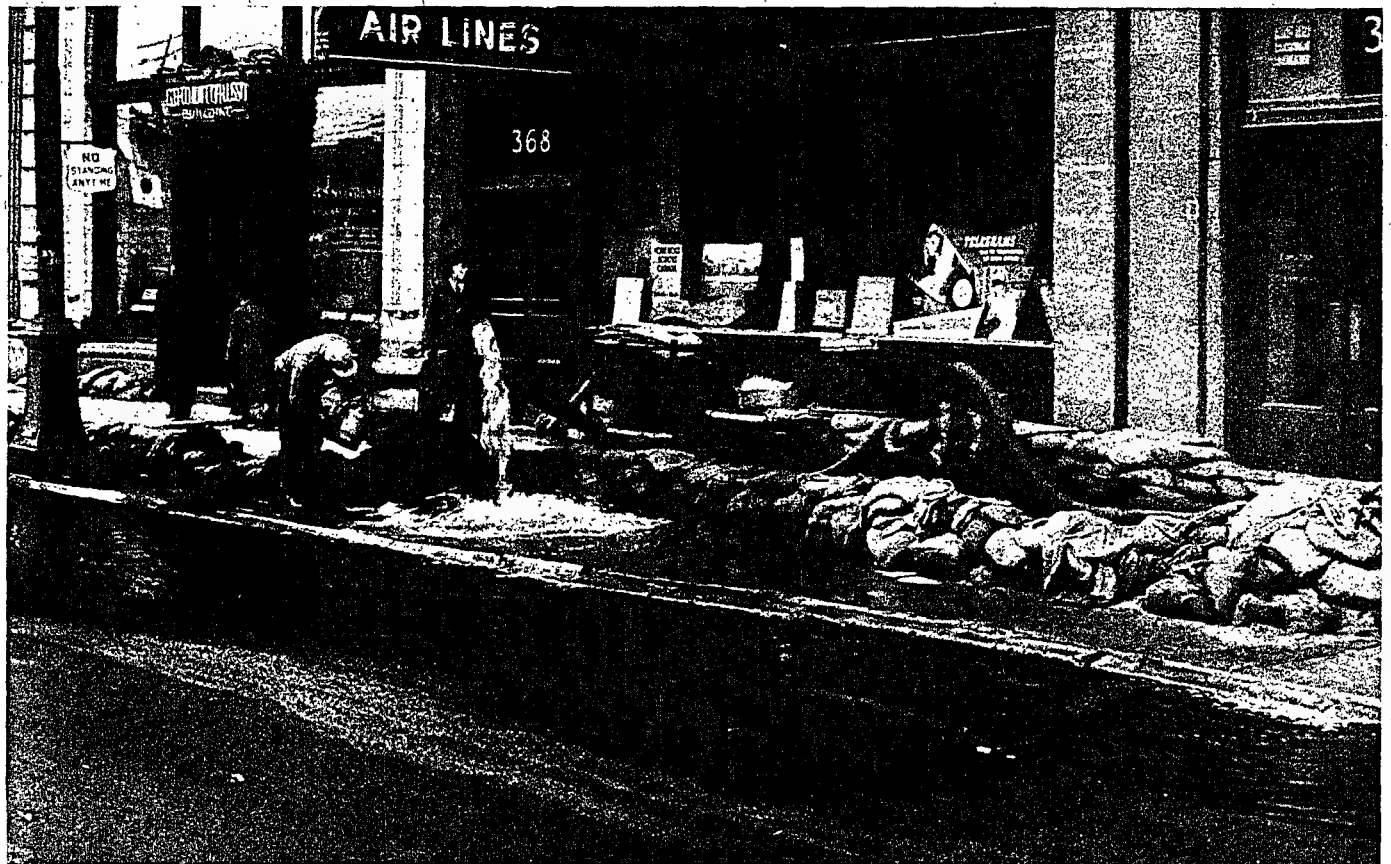
Main Street at Portage Avenue—looking North—
—the hub of Winnipeg's business district.



Portage Ave. at Main St., looking South—the
only outward sign here of flooding is the
constant pumping from flooded basements and
elevator shafts.



Courtesy Harold K. White





Courtesy Harold K. White

Looking from Winnipeg side of Red River across
on Winnipeg's sister city of St. Boniface.



Water-isolated Rover Street City Hydro Power
Station. Manned dykes hold back flood waters
—constant pumping keeps water down in flooded
basement.



Courtesy Harold K. White





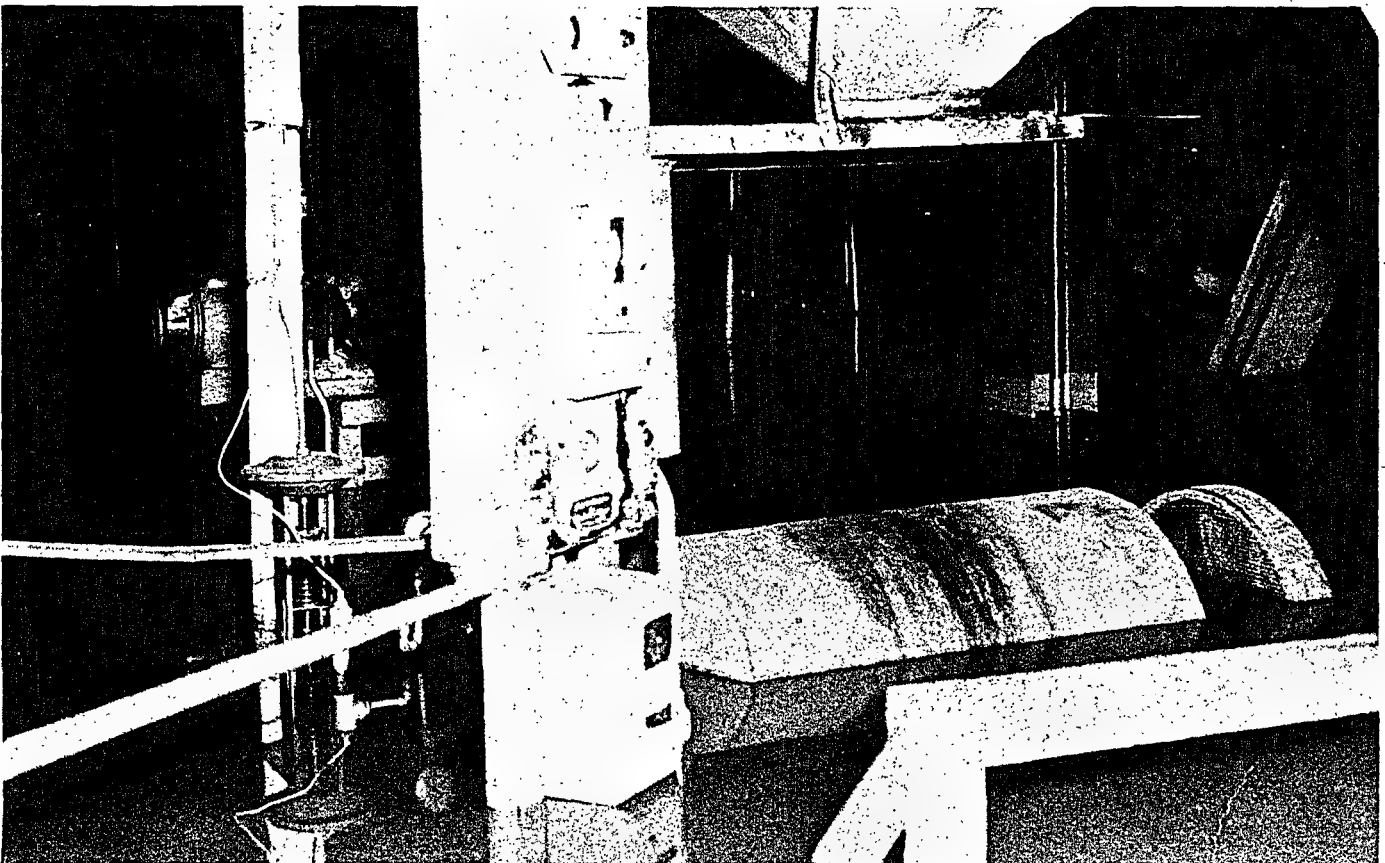
Courtesy Harold K. White

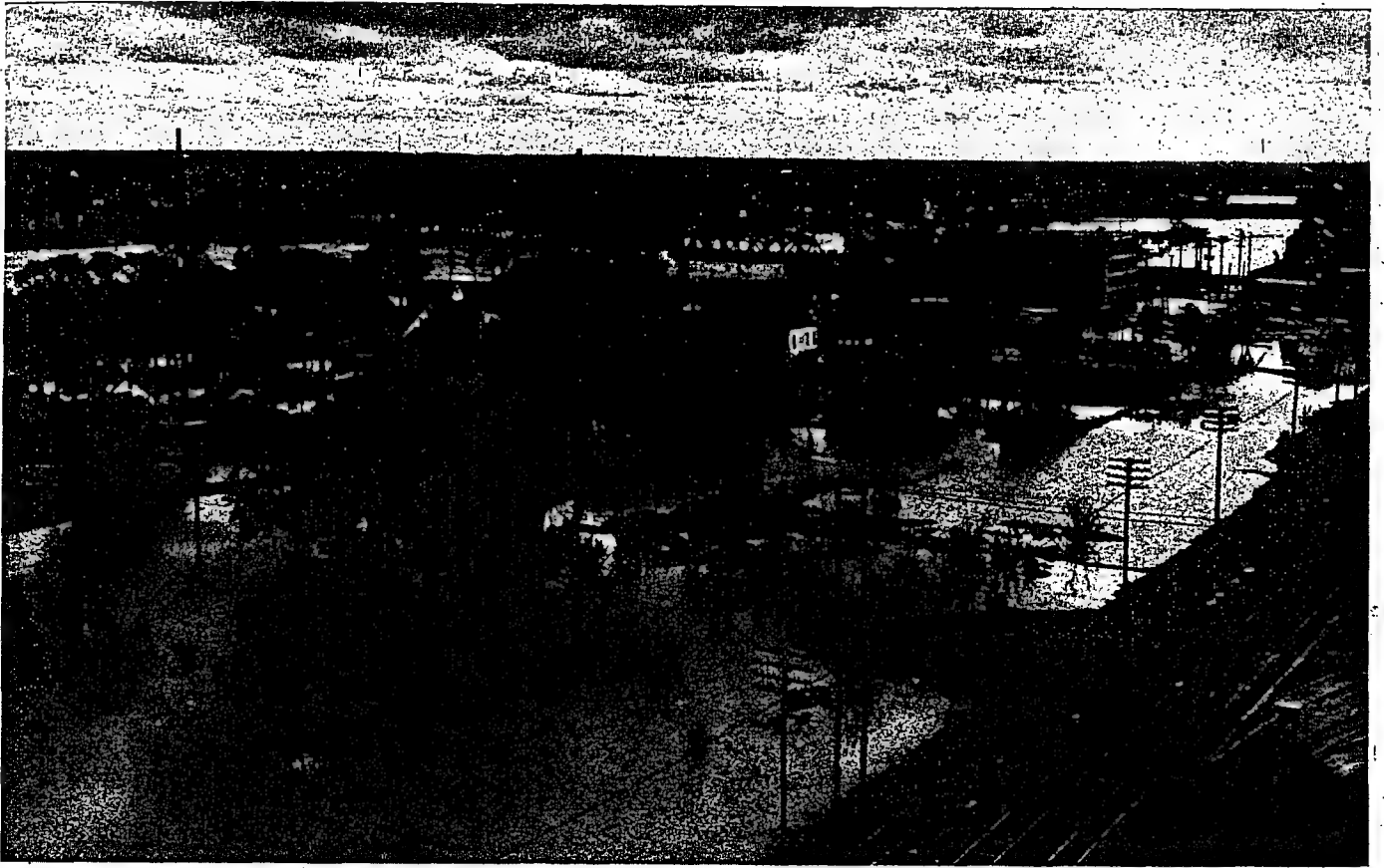
Swift Canadian packing plant, looking West—
St. Boniface.



Inside Canada Packers showing flooded Feed
Mill—Marion St., St. Boniface.

Courtesy Harold K. White





Courtesy Harold K. White

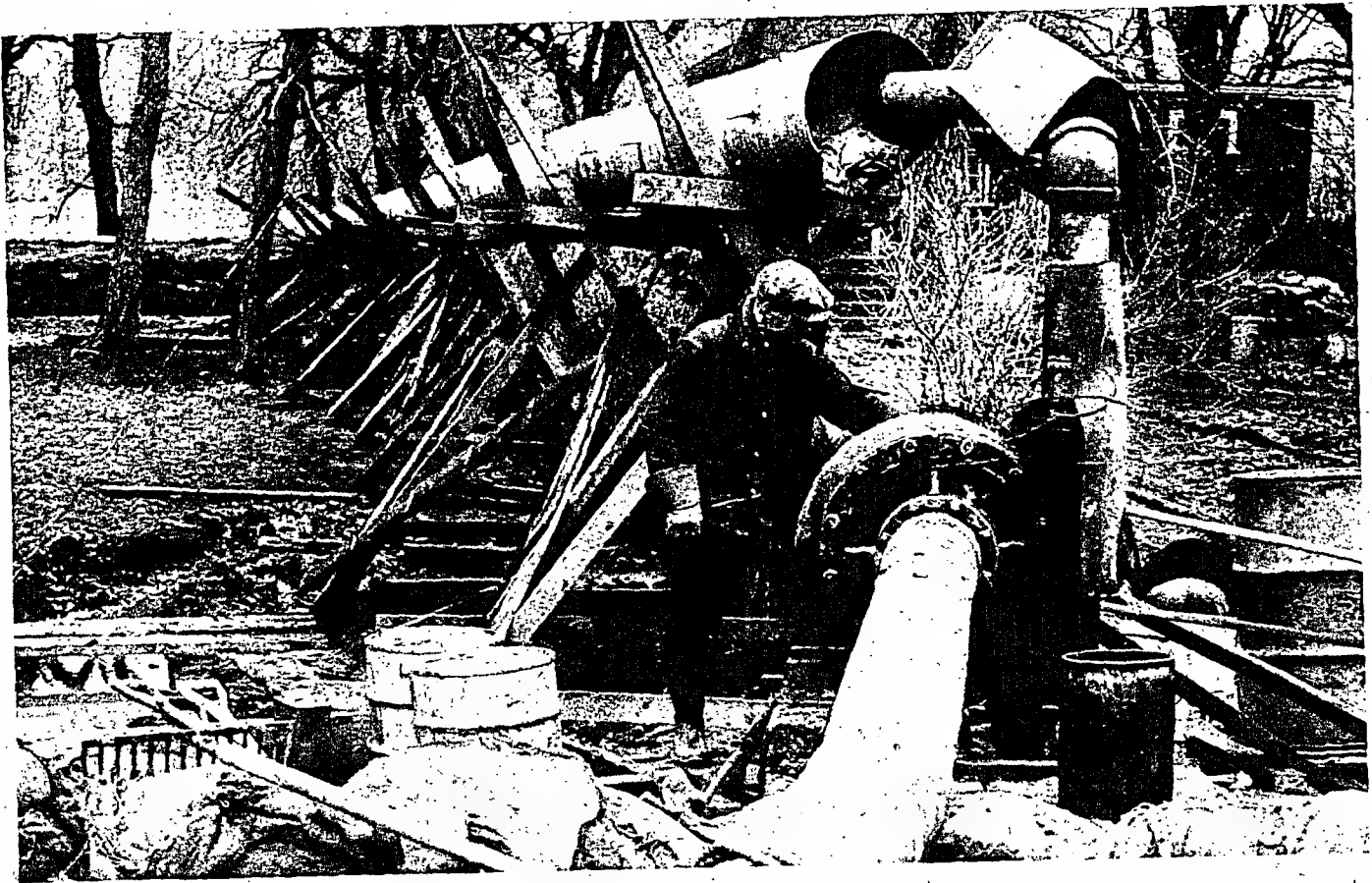
Louise Bridge approaches being awash, cut this industrial area from Winnipeg.



Macfarlane Street in Point Douglas—a heavy industrial area—required re-building in order to handle vital traffic.

Courtesy Harold K. White





Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press

Parkview Pumping Station, St. James—relieves pressure on sewers in flooded residential areas.

Portage Ave., West—St. James subway during dyking operations to block flood waters from the backed-up Assiniboine River and Oman's Creek.

Courtesy Harold K. White





Courtesy Harold K. White

A common sight in flooded areas—Street and River Patrol boats on duty.



One of the tremendous sand-bag dykes, built by citizens and armed service personnel, shows the magnitude of the task and the millions of sand bags used.



Courtesy Harold K. White





Courtesy, Winnipeg Free Press

Brown & Rutherford Lumber yard — another victim of the floods—adding to the gigantic losses of home-owner and business man alike.



Patrolling industrial area of St. Boniface by boat to keep damage from floating debris down to a minimum.

Courtesy Harold K. White.





Courtesy Harold K. White

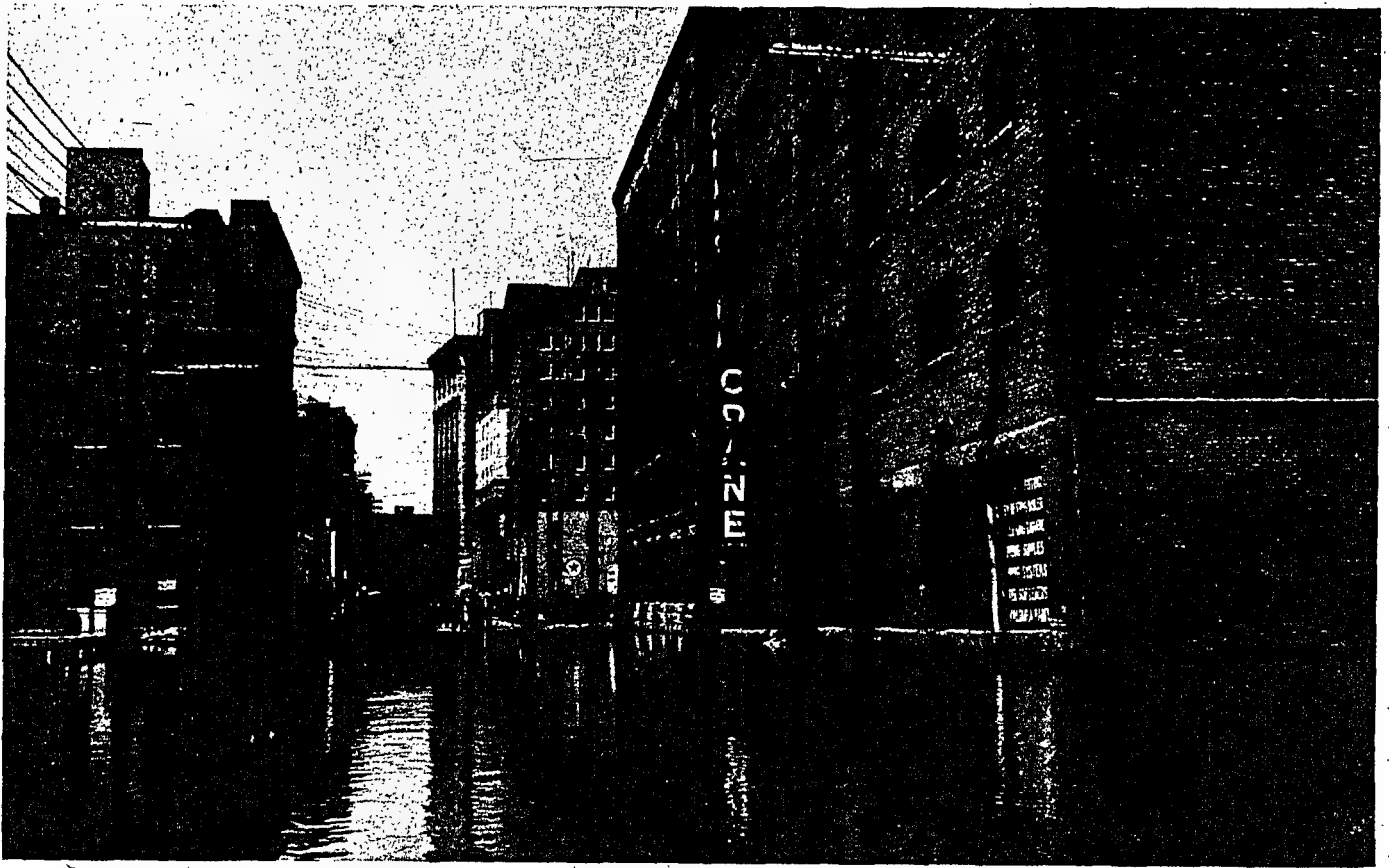
Salvaging materials by raft and boat in the swirling waters of St. Boniface industrial area.



Shipment of manufactured products ceased during the flooding period causing great loss of business to many firms.

Courtesy Harold K. White





Courtesy Harold K. White

Lombard Street—looking West—one of the city's badly flooded business sections.

Navy Frogmen performed dangerous flood tasks not possible by others such as inspecting dykes for breaks below water level, sewer clearance and other hazardous under-water work.

Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press





Courtesy Harold K. White

A street of roof tops—stark evidence of the River's destructive flood waters — over 1900 houses were flooded over the first floor.



A Canadian Army DUKW serves as means of communication between Elm Park and Riverview districts.

Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press





Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press

Shuttle service by boat—taking residents to and from their homes along flooded streets.



A once-beautiful residential district flooded above first-storey windows and up to the eaves in places.

Courtesy Harold K. White





Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press

Navy evacuation of patients from flooded hospitals to those in safe areas.



Stranded pigeons are fed on a high spot in St. Vital.

Courtesy Harold K. White





Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press



The Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, under the direction of the Red Cross, collected, sorted and distributed tons of warm, needed clothing to evacuees.

The Canadian Army took over charge of Flood Control, built and maintained dykes, patrolled flooded areas, and helped evacuate citizens from their flooded homes.

The Royal Canadian Air Force helped evacuate flooded-out citizens from homes in both city and country; carried in thousands of sand bags, pumps and other flood-fighting equipment and assisted civilian flying organizations to drop feed to stranded livestock in the Red River Valley under Operation Haylift.



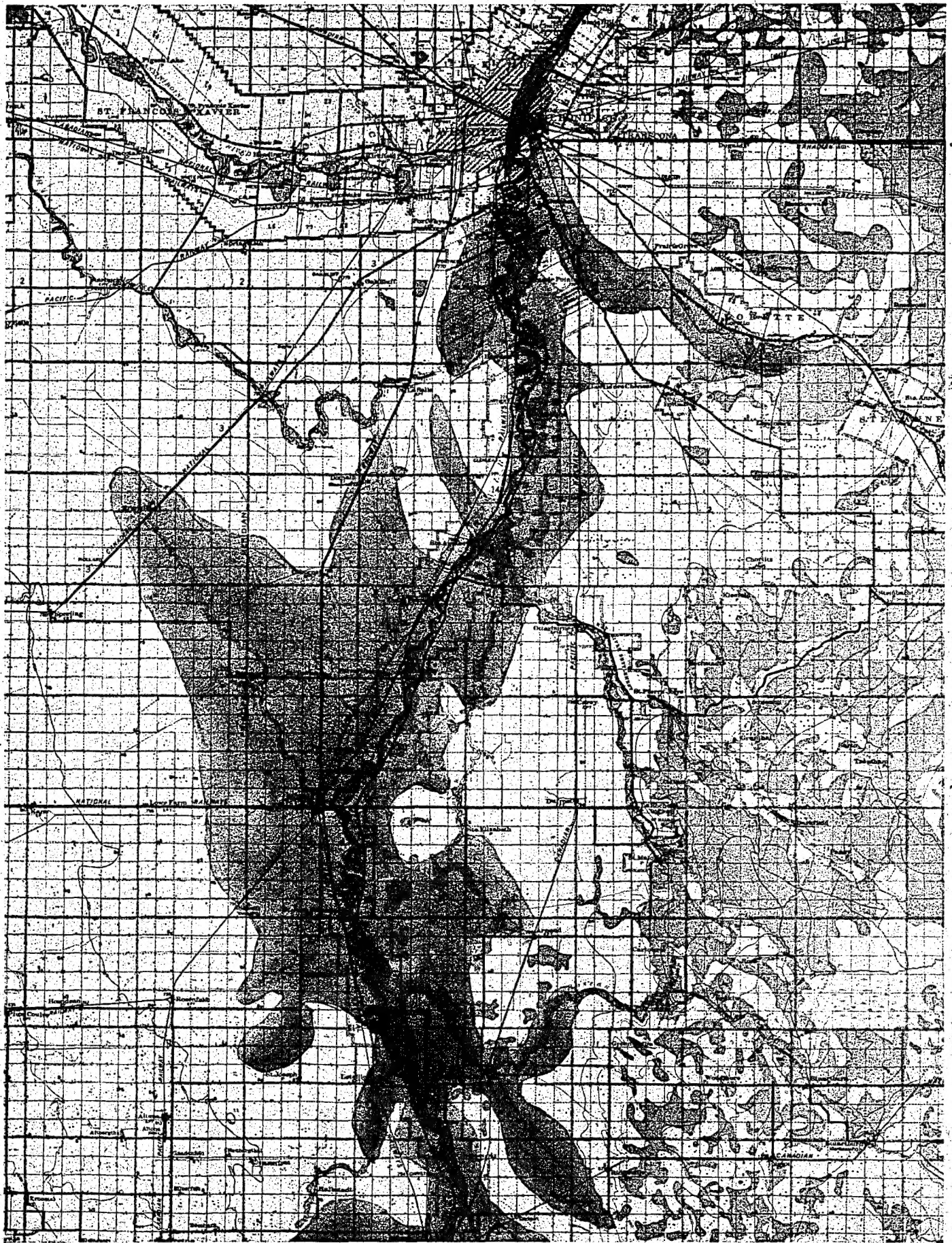
Courtesy Winnipeg Free Press

The Royal Canadian Navy manned the Army DUKW's that performed countless errands of mercy in flooded-out areas, inaccessible by any other means.

The Salvation Army distributed food and comforts to weary dyke-workers, evacuees and other flood victims.

The Canadian Red Cross directed the evacuation of thousands of men, women and children in the Red River Valley, cared for them in safe places and helped them return to their homes.





The dark shaded areas of the above map show the flooded sections of the Red River Valley.

Acknowledgments

This edition, depicting the disastrous flood which Manitoba suffered in 1950, was published by Stovel Press Limited and all materials and labor entering into its production and distribution, were supplied either at cost or less than cost, by the following firms in aid of the Manitoba Flood Relief Fund:

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